



# Spotlight on the Arts Newsletter

April 2008 - Vol. 1, Issue 3



## Mission:

Quality Arts for All in Paradise Valley Unified School District

## Paradise Valley Arts Education Council

Officers:

**Karen Ramsey,**

President

**Dr. Judy Durocher,**

Vice President

**Ali Frank**

Treasurer

**Open**

Secretary

**Sandy Tsukamoto**

Newsletter

## Upcoming Meetings:

All PVAEC meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month from 6:30-7:30pm in G-101 at Horizon High School (use entrance on Greenway Road):

To receive continuing information on PVAEC, including upcoming meetings & newsletters, please contact Karen at

[kw@compliancepartnershr.com](mailto:kw@compliancepartnershr.com)



## SPOTLIGHT ON Goals...



Our 2007-2008 goals are:

- Organize the PVAEC Board
- Begin the process of becoming a 501(c)3 and creating by-laws
- Start the process of building relationships with Administrators
- Launch *Spotlight on the Arts*
- Support conducting a *Survey on The Arts* in PVUSD that is based on an instrument developed by The State of New Jersey



## SPOTLIGHT ON Arts Advocacy Award



*Larry Whitesell has been awarded the first PVAEC Arts Advocacy Award. Larry is in his 35th year in arts education. He started in PVUSD in 1975 at Shadow Mountain High School. In 1990 he was appointed the Fine Arts Curriculum Coordinator then "retired" in 2002 when he became Auditorium Coordinator for Community Ed. In his spare time, Larry started working with the City of Phoenix to provide after-school arts and academic program in nine schools. He is now Manager of the Higley Center for the Performing Arts. He works as adjunct faculty at Southern Utah University in the summer months, serves as a board member of the Phoenix Children's Chorus and Arizona Alliance for Arts Education. We're very pleased to honor his numerous and excellent contributions as an Arts teacher and an Arts administrator. With the 2008 Arts Advocacy Award.*



## SPOTLIGHT ON Administrators



Cara Herkamp has been part of the administrative team at PVHS for the past eight years. An avid support of the Fine Arts, she recently: attended the Heritage Festival of Gold in Chicago with the Marching Band, applauded the works of the Drama Department with their recent production of Sweet Smell of Success. In addition, she celebrates the recognition this year of two of her students works of art at the district Art Show. A strong supporter of culture, Mrs. Herkamp worked with Todd Parten, Ceramics Teacher, to bring the Mata Ortiz potters from Mexico so students, teachers, and employees of PVUSD to both learn skills from and appreciate the artwork. Mrs. Herkamp began her educational career as an English teacher in California – fostering a love of literature and the arts as a natural companion. After six years of teaching in the Los Angeles and Orange County areas, Mrs. Herkamp moved to Louisville, Kentucky where she remained for five years, taking on a teacher-mentoring role, working for the Gheens Professional Development Academy.



## SCHOOL NEWS



The following PVUSD high school students were selected for the All-state Honor Choir: Horizon-**Tara Owens, Deanne Kaner, Nathan Johnson, Chelsey Miller and Trevor Meiss** (choral dir. **Katie Kouns**); North Canyon-**Joy Gunderson** (choral dir. **Joyce Bertilson**); Paradise Valley-**Annalicia Gonzalez** (choral dir **Mary Segall**); Pinnacle-**Lindsey Blaser, Melody DiSalvo** and **M.T. Mitchell** (choral dir. **Anthony Ludwig**); and Shadow Mountain-**Emily Warren, Kara Haberstock, Jesse Sanders and Jonny Pyrc.**

The following Shadow Mountain High School Choir students were selected for the West Region Honor Choir- **Amy Kankiewicz, Emily Warren, Courtney Lythgoe, Kara Haberstock, Sarah Judd, Jesse Sanders, Jonny Pyrc, Jonny Lutz, and Logan Cummings.**

Choir students from Shadow Mountain High School recently attended the Chandler-Gilbert Community College Choral Festival. The Matador Misses Advanced women's Choir earned a Superior rating and the Singing Shadows Choir earned an Excellent Rating.

According to Band teacher Chris Jahrsdoerfer, the following Liberty Elementary Sixth grade students received a "Superior" for their involvement in the recent Solo & Ensemble Festival: **Amanda Guertin** for a Flute Solo as well as a Duet with **Madison King** who also received the rating for a Solo and **Jordan Farr** for a Saxophone solo.

About 160 Paradise Valley Unified School District elementary and middle school students, in various shades of green and with leprechaun hats, participated in the district's second annual Fiddle Festival on St. Patrick's Day. The festival gave the students, the opportunity to perform a different genre of music - fiddling.

The students learned nine pieces that they began practicing in October. The fifth- through eighth-graders came from 14 elementary schools and five middle schools to play violins, violas, cellos and basses.

Please email Paradise Valley Unified School District Arts-related achievements to [tsukamoto1@cox.net](mailto:tsukamoto1@cox.net)